

The Veto Power.

The *Herald* glories over the veto power, and especially over its exercise by Gov. Grover in the case of the Portland subsidy Bill, which passed the Legislature lately in Session, this warlike feeling seems to have grown out of the fact that the people, as well as the press, of that city were divided in sentiment upon the subject. The *Oregonian* and the *Bulletin* both favored the Bill, which in its terms was simply permissive, and proposed to authorize the City of Portland to raise by tax \$300,000, for the special benefit of any man, or set of men, who should secure to the City the terminus of the Willamette Valley Railroad, which, of course, meant Mr. Holladay and Company. The *Herald* opposed the Bill, and claimed it was unconstitutional, and a great swindle besides, because it was simply returning to Mr. Holladay, by the Democratic party, what Holladay had expended in the late election to defeat that party. Surely, if the *Herald* were honest in that belief, no blame can be attached or charged rightfully for its opposition; but neither the *Oregonian* or *Bulletin* could see it in that light. The last-named paper comes out and most shamefully abuses Gov. Grover for vetoing the Bill, and claims that in so doing, the Governor was entirely controlled by the Hon. Joseph Smith, and very plainly intimates that our most worthy Governor is a very feminine individual, possessing but little, if any, mind, and deliberately comes to the conclusion that Oregon has two Governors under whose administration the people must live for the next four years. These rulers, they charge, are Messrs. Smith and Miller, one of Portland, the other of Salem, and they represent Grover as the medium through which those Governors operate.

Now this is a grave charge, and we are at a loss to know whether or not we should be safe in disputing what Mr. O'Meara positively asserts to be the fact in that respect, knowing, as we do, that he is an old veteran in the Democratic ranks, and is perfectly familiar with their mode of operations, but we will venture the assertion that we have a slight acquaintance with the three persons named by O'Meara, and had formed of each a different opinion, but, if the editor of the *Bulletin* shall insist that, from his intimate acquaintance with all the secret operations of the Democratic party for the last ten years, he is the better judge, we shall not persist in our opinion. The *Oregonian* now comes out and says, "There is one reason, and one only, why Gov. Grover has vetoed the Bill to enable the City of Portland to contract for the construction of a railway to terminate within its limits," and claims that reason to be a partisan one. What means knowing that fact that paper has, we know not; if they are able to prove the charge, it is well; but, if not, it is certainly in very bad taste. As to the Bill in question enabling the City of Portland, if it had passed, to secure the terminus of the said railroad within its limits, it seems to us a very singular argument, under the circumstances. It is claimed by that paper that nearly all the inhabitants and property holders of the city were very anxious that the Bill should pass, and for what? so that they could have the privilege of contracting with the proper parties for the terminus of the railroad. So says the *Oregonian*. But we are entirely unable to see why the passage of the Bill referred to should make any material difference. If it be true that the inhabitants desire in good faith to give Mr. Holladay, or any other man, \$300,000, in consideration that he would terminate the road at that city, they can as easily give it, and secure the terminus without the passage of the Bill as with it; and it will be no excuse for those who desire to give for that purpose, that the Bill did not pass; for if such a large proportion of the property holders favor it, then the very small portion who do not desire to contribute, if they refuse, will not defeat the object. So, by the logic of the *Oregonian*, the statement in that paper, that the passage of the Bill would have enabled the City to secure the terminus is entirely overthrown.

That paper has great concern about the interests of the West Side Railroad, but, before the interest of the East Side had been well secured, and when the West Side was in a death struggle to maintain its just and equitable rights, and while the West Side franchise was controlled by any man but Holladay, and while it was being robbed of its rights by monopolists, the *Oregonian* could discover no rights of the West Side which it was bound to respect; but now, since Mr. Holladay has willed to control the West Side franchise, our cause has suddenly become very dear to the *Oregonian*, and now it comes to the people with its wailings, while the crocodile tears are rolling in quick succession over its rosy cheek, and says, "if now the West Side road fails, the people who are interested may thank Governor Grover and his very Democratic advisers for it." What twaddle; Holladay or any one else has never pretended that the passage of the Bill would make any difference whatever in relation to the West Side Railroad; the only pretence, as we understand it, is, that it would terminate it at West, instead of East, Portland. The people of the west side will not be affected by that arrangement, no matter which side of the river it terminates; if they get the road, their demands will be satisfied. But the *Oregonian* brings to view, not intentionally we opine, a twinkling star. It says: "Had the subsidy been granted, the construction of the road would have been guaranteed." Ah! is that so, Mr. *Oregonian*? And are we now to be cheated out of a road, because Mr. Holladay could not compel the people, by an Act of the Legislature, to give him money enough to build it, so that he would be enabled to levy any tariff he desired upon them after it was built? What has become of your loud proclamation, and that of the *Bulletin*, that Mr. Holladay would positively build the West Side Road if he got possession of the franchise, and that, too, without delay, and without asking aid from anybody? Where now are your croaking boasts of his great ability and willingness to build the West Side Road? And where now is that portion of his great wealth, amassed in other countries, and brought here for the special benefit of the people of the West Side? You denounced us when, a few weeks since, we told the people of the West Side that Mr. Holladay's operations here was a humbug, unless he could make another grab by bringing corrupt influences to bear upon the then coming Legislature. You denounced us when we, in all honesty, told the people of the West Side that Mr. Holladay would never build their road, unless he could rob them first of money enough to assist him to build it. And now, with the audacity of the Devil, you intimate to the people of the West Side just what we then predicted, that Holladay will build no road. We do not feel that in this article we have given the guilty parties what they justly deserve for this damnable outrage offered in open daylight to the people of the West Side, but we will, for the present, forbear. In justice, however, to Governor Grover, we desire to say that, in our opinion, no other course could have been pursued by him, without violating his oath of office; for there is no plainer proposition than that the Bill in question was unconstitutional, both in spirit and letter. The Act contemplated is strictly and positively forbidden; and to say that the words corporation or company is not used in the Bill, but instead thereof the words person or persons, and that such phraseology would steer the Bill clear of constitutional breakers, is an argument fitting only to be used by idiots and children; and we venture the assertion that not a legal man in Oregon can be found who dare risk his reputation upon the declaration that such a law would be constitutional.

But while we stand by Governor Grover in his veto of this unconstitutional Subsidy Bill, we desire here to

denounce the act of signing the Bills diverting our School Fund to what is falsely termed internal improvement, as a flagrant violation of the constitution, in our judgment, and as trampling under foot with impunity the most sacred rights of the people, to their great injury, without their consent, and in the face and eyes of their expressed will at the adoption of the Constitution. Let the people of the West Side mark well what the Holladay shriekers have to say hereafter.

What has Become of their Promises?

The Democracy promised the people during the last political canvass, that if they got into power, and had possession of the reigns of Government in Oregon, they would carry out the constitutional requirement, and pass a law that no negro should come to Oregon, or hold property here, and provide some effectual means whereby those negroes who are now here, should be driven out of the State, and so modify and arrange the laws of Oregon, that a negro should have no rights that a white man was bound to respect.

Second, that if the people would only trust them with the sword and purse, peace should pervade the earth, as the waters do the mighty deep, upon the principle of "no coercion;" let the military be subject to the civil authority under all circumstances; keep men together, and make them good, if you can by moral suasion, but if they will not hear and do right, let them go as they please; for they said, we have had enough of arbitrary rule; and then their terrible shrieks about the squandering of the people's money. They promised retrenchment, reform, that they would reduce our taxes, and save to the people large sums of money.

Third, they promised, long and loud, that the iron heel of Democracy should be placed with great vehemence upon the neck of monopolies in Oregon.

And in the fourth place, they made promises, too sacred to be broken, that if the people would give them a working majority in the Legislature, they would, when convened, pass laws to protect the down-trodden Caucasians in the State, by taxing the long eued, moon-eyed, rat-eating Mongolians out of the country.

Well, the harvest is passed, and the summer is ended; the people gave them a large majority in both branches of the Legislature; they have met, and their work is over; but how stands the account? They have left upon our hands and in our midst the odious negro, with the privilege to exercise all the rights of white men, and have failed to make provision, according to their most sacred promises, for his immediate exit from the State. They have not fulfilled their oft-repeated promises to bring about "Peace on earth and good will to man." They have failed to do as arrange the laws as to do away with any necessity for military authority; they have signally failed to lighten the burdens of taxation. Instead of putting a stop to the squandering of the people's money, they have converted the hitherto retail, into a wholesale squandering. And as for their promises to save to the people large sums of money, they have provided by law for the extraction from the pockets of the people enormous amounts annually, heretofore audited.

In redemption for their pledge to oppose monopolies, they have attempted to rob the people for the express purpose of establishing and encouraging monopolies all over the State, of the most contemptible character.

And last, but not least, they have wilfully, knowingly, and with malice aforethought, left the poor down-trodden Caucasians to the mercy of the moon-eyed Chinaman in Oregon, to whose dictation and arbitrary rule the people must submit for two years longer, and that sin of omission was perpetrated against the solemn protest of many good Democratic members. All this, and more, is true, of the long catalogue of broken promises made by the leaders of the untried Democracy, and of the now sad condition of an oppressed, but a religious and patient people.

If this indictment shall be pronounced insufficient by the Court, we shall move a reference back to the Grand

Jury, and draft a new one on which to arraign the criminals before the bar of justice, the people, on the first Monday in June, 1872.

The Closing scene.

An attempt was made in the closing hours of the Legislature, to re-enact the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions of '98-9. They are eight in number, and show unmistakably the real political principles of the Oregon Democracy. They passed the Senate, and received twenty-two Democratic votes in the House, which, being less than a majority, they failed to pass; but they went too far for the leaders now to undertake to go back on them. Hundreds of Democrats in Oregon and elsewhere do not endorse them; they embody and endorse the very principle upon which the South claimed the right to peacefully secede. If the principle be right now, it was then, and, if correct, then, as Buchanan said, there is no power under the Constitution to coerce a State, when her people decide to resolve allegiance to the general Government. If all this be true, the invasion of the Southern States during our late war was unauthorized, and outrageous; the millions who bit the dust in the conflict were ruthlessly and causelessly murdered; the rivers of blood and countless treasure were spent in vain, and the second sober thought, and the coming into power of modern Democracy, will, as a natural result of this principle, and in strict accordance with the prophetic vision of the immaculate Alexander H. Stephens, re-instate the Southern Confederacy, re-instate the institution of slavery, carry the people back to within plain view of the dark ages, and establish upon the ruins of Republicanism the everlasting time honored principles of Democracy; the result of which would be, the total destruction of the Government of the United States in less than a quarter of a century, and the establishment of forty independent cities with her own jurisdiction, and reduce the people to a condition worse than that of the people of Mexico to day. We will dissect the resolutions one by one, commencing with next week's issue, and show the cloven foot.

No Honor for a Traitor.

The *Herald* sneers at Secretary Boutwell's telegram approving the order of the Collector of Customs at Savannah Ga., commanding the Custom House flag, which had been lowered to half mast by one of his subordinates on account of the death of Gen. R. E. Lee, to be raised to full mast again. The *New York Tribune* thus answers another paper on this subject:

We did not suppose there would be found at the North or South an editor or newspaper to commend the senseless propriety of displaying the U. S. flag at half mast, out of respect to a man who made his most heroic efforts to humble it and destroy the Government it represented. But we had momentarily forgotten Mr. J. Brooks and the *Evening Express*. We suppose the *Express* will next insist, in a moment of overpowering sympathy, that Gen. Sherman, as the head of the army, ought to announce the death of Gen. Lee in an official order. It would have precisely the same insignificance that the lowering of the flag would possess, and would not be more improper than the foolish act which the Secretary of the Treasury very rightly condemned. Enough that the nation has forgiven this man and his comrades their crime; let it not be asked to play the hypocrite besides.—*Oregonian*.

What's the matter with the old fanatical Horace now? He seems to think it was outrageous to lower the flag to half mast on account of the death of Gen. Lee. He must have gone back on his principles, so loudly proclaimed, and eagerly embraced by all the extremists of the land, of universal amnesty and suffrage. In lowering the flag, the officer acted upon the same principle as Greeley did, when he signed the bail bond of Jeff. Davis, and if universal amnesty be right, then it is right to lower the flag on the death of Lee. The truth is, Lee ought to have been hung or banished for his treason; and so ought Horace Greeley for his treason. Lee, as a man in private life, ought to be greatly respected, and also as a man of extraordinary ability, but as a traitor, his name ought, and ever will be, covered in disgrace and infamy. So, Greeley, as a man of great ability and upright in private life, will ever be respected by the American people and the civilized world; but, for the act of signing those bonds, and the promulgation of his dangerous dogma of universal suffrage and universal amnesty, which not only wipes out the crime of treason, but will destroy the Government in twenty years, will also go to his long home followed by the curses of the people of his own day, and those of millions yet unborn.

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